

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

REDACTED VERSION

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2008

From: Roberto Bernier

To: Debbie Dietrich, Office of Emergency Management
Ragan Broyles, Superfund Division

Subject: Final POLREP
Clute Texas Mercury Response
(b) (6) Clute, TX
Latitude: (b) (6)
Longitude: (b) (6)

POLREP No.:	10	Site #:	A6H7
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	11
Start Date:	7/3/2008	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	7/3/2008	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	8/9/2008	NPL Status:	
Completion Date:	8/11/2008	Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	EP-S6-07-02
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On June 28, 2008, local authorities reported to the National Response Center (NRC No. 875602) that 3 private residences had been affected with approximately 6 pounds of mercury. A child found the mercury contained in a jar and played with it at his residence. Some of the mercury was transferred to two additional properties by neighbor kids that also handled the mercury. On June 19, 2008, local emergency response teams responded to 2 of the houses, removed elemental mercury and contaminated items and declared them remediated. The local teams responded to the source-house and removed the remaining mercury, a section of carpet from the front bedroom, and some soil at the house front yard; however, operations were suspended due to lack of funding. On July 3, 2008, EPA mobilized its Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START-3) contractors to the incident location to assess the situation and perform analytical screening of the source-house for mercury vapors. The residence was secured by the local authorities and the occupants of the house were relocated with relatives.

Current Activities

On 6 August 2008, while waiting for the confirmation sampling analytical results, EPA returned to the house to prepare it for restoration. The doors and windows were unsealed from the inside of the house, and excess caulking and foam was removed and smoothed at each seam. Also, the floors of the house were swept, and the shelves were reinstalled. Outdoors, in the staging area, drums containing hazardous waste were secured, labeled, and manifested for transport. Furthermore, the mercury vacuum cleaner was decontaminated for transport and the industrial ventilation fans were returned to the local fire department. Finally, the roll-off box containing non-hazardous debris was demobed and transported by Allied Waste to an approved landfill for disposal.

On 7 August 2008, EPA added fresh fill dirt to level and restore the compacted grass and dirt driveway area where the roll-off box had been stored. Poly-sheeting was removed from the staging areas and decontamination areas after the drums containing hazardous waste were transferred to a transport truck. Six, 55-gallon drums containing mercury-affected dirt and six, 55-gallon drums containing mercury-affected debris (including carpet) were transported to Clean Harbors for encapsulation disposal. One, 55-gallon drum, one 15-gallon drum, and one, 25-gallon drum containing materials with visible elemental mercury were transported to Clean Harbors for retortion disposal.

Analytical results for the NIOSH 6009 confirmation air samples indicated that all areas sampled (inside the house and the outdoor background sample) exhibited mercury vapor concentrations below 1.0 ug/m³, which is the cleanup standard value for residential indoor air). The highest analytical result for all samples was 0.453ug/m³.

On 8 August 2008, carpet flooring was reinstalled on the mercury affected areas inside the house,

including the living room, den, and bedroom # 1. Also, surplus fresh soil was added to the remediated soil area to level the dug area.

On 9 August 2008, decontaminated personal effects or that exhibited mercury vapor concentrations below the action level for personal effects were moved and placed inside the house. Furthermore, the storage pods for personal effects were demobed from the site. EPA returned the house key to the home owner and demobilized from the site. The portable toilets were removed from the site (following demobilization) on 11 August 2008.

Planned Removal Actions

No further removal actions are scheduled to occur at the site location.

Next Steps

Complete final reports. Verify final paperwork for manifested wastes from transporter/disposal facility (close loop).

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$80,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$10,000.00	12.50%
RST/START	\$60,000.00	\$46,300.00	\$13,700.00	22.83%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$140,000.00	\$116,300.00	\$23,700.00	16.93%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/clutemercury